



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Georgia's Pre-K Program Overview

Georgia's Pre-K Program is designed to develop and support quality Pre-K experiences for four-year-old children. The program, administered by Bright from the Start, is focused on increasing school readiness and improving overall school performance. Now in its 18th year, nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K is a universal, voluntary program currently serving 84,000 children across the state. During the 2009-2010 school year, the lottery funded program served its one millionth child. This program is available in all 159 counties in the state.

Program Essentials

- Voluntary Program
 - Children must be four years old on September 1st of the current school year
 - Must reside in Georgia
- Public/ Private partnership
 - Operates in both Private and Public sites
- Full Year/ Full Day Program
 - 180 days per year (36 weeks)
 - Five days per week
 - 6.5 hours per day
- Credentialed Teaching Staff
 - Lead Teacher salary determined by level of credentials
 - Certified in Early Childhood
 - Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood
 - Assistant Teachers must meet minimum credential requirement
 - Child Development Associate (CDA) or higher
- Comprehensive Classroom Standards
 - Annual on-site monitoring, support, and assessment from Bright from the Start
 - Georgia's Pre-K Content Standards align with birth through third grade standards
 - Approved curricula options which are aligned with Pre-K standards and assessment
 - On-going professional development for all Pre-K staff including teachers, owners and directors/ school administrators
- Program Funding
 - Operating funds awarded annually by Bright from the Start through a competitive grant process
 - Funded through the Georgia Lottery for Education
 - Additional funds annually to replace/replenish classroom materials and equipment